supply of gas for the fertilizer plant of M/s Nagarjuna Fertilizer and Chemicals which is under construction at Kakinada. It has also been decided to commit gas in this region to two new power plants of 400 MW each and a small fertilizer plant. At present no natural gas is being produced from onshore basin. The production is expected to begin only by 1993-94.

Malaria in epidemic form in Khammam District of Andhra Pradesh

817. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that malaria is spreading in epidemic form in tribal areas of Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh and there are 1,20,000 cases already detected and 115 deaths have been reported:

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such high incidence of malaria and

(c) what effective steps Government propose to take to control the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) The Government is aware of an outbreak of malaria in Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh during the month of July, 1990 and a total number of 201 deaths have been reported due to Malaria and other causes against 2275 malaria positive cases reported during this period.

(b) The reasons for the out-break are as under:—

—Absence of spray operations as the area is less than 2 API (API no. of positive cases of malaria per thousand population per year)

—Lack of surveillance

—Improper and patchy surveillance activities.

—Absence of focal spray and investigation of detected malaria cases.

—The affected areas are in the immediate neighbourhood of high incidence persistant transmission PHCs.

(c) The following specific steps have been taken to control the disease:-

—Director, N.M.E.P. visited the State Headquarters and the affected district from 29th July to 1st August, 1990 to evaluate the situation, organise containment measures and to give technical guidance to contain the outbreak.

—Adequate quantities of insecticides and anti-malaria drugs have been supplied to the State Health Authorities.

—Intensive case detection through peripheral health workers, Mobile Medical Teams and Treatment through the Medical Officers is being undertaken. Pyrethrum Space Spray is being done. Fogging through vehicle mounted fogging machines has been done in the villages where vehicle can go.

—Health Education and publicity about the disease symptoms, where to get treatment and the benefits of insecticidal spray are being carried out.

Clearance for the operation of Air Taxies

818. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 15 enpreneures have sought clearance from

the Union Government to operate air-taxies on different domestic routes in the country; and

(b) whether any air-taxt routes have been sanctioned so far, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN). (a) and (b) Air Taxi Operators Certificates have so far been issued to three applicants and also no objection in principle has been given to eighteen applicants under the Air Taxi Scheme. Under the guidelines the air taxi service can be operated to all airports open to Scheduled operations with the permission of the Airport Authority concerned.

Treatment of AIDS patients

819. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether is is a fact that AIDS patients are being turned away from Government hospitals;

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure that AIDS cases are better monitored and treated;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the reasons for refusal to admit AIDS patients at AIIMS recently; and

(d) what are the details of funds allocated for AIDS control during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (d) Thirteen institutions have been identified and strengthened for management of HIV infected patients and AIDS cases. The names of these institutions are:-

1. K.G. Medical College, Lucknow.
2. A.I.I.M.S., New Delhi.
3. S.M.S. Medical College, Jaipur.
4. Sher-i-Kashmir Instt. of Medical Sciences, Srinagar.
5. Trivandrum Medical College, Trivandrum.
6. Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad.
7. Calcutta Medical College, Calcutta.
8. S.C.B. Medical College, Madras.
9. Madras Medical College, Madras.
10. J. J. Medical College, Bombay.
11. J. N. Hospital, Imphal, Manipur.
12. Medical College, Bangalore.
13. Goa Medical College, Goa.

Only full blown AIDS cases require Hospitalisation.

Not all HIV infected persons require indoor treatment. Patients come to OPD with a wide range of complaints, for which symptomatic treatment is being given.

Fund have already been released to the above thirteen institutions for purchase of matarial and equipment for AIDS unit.

In addition, Government of India has drawn up Medium Term Plan for prevention of AIDS. In the Medium Term Plan, it has been decided to strengthen the existing facilities for treatment of AIDS infected patients at in above mentioned Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the country. The expansion of the facilities include:

—Providing clinical care to patients with HIV infection.